



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 10 - 06
For Immediate Release
Thursday, March 9, 2006

Contact: Sandra Friedman
714.484.5383
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

U.S. Attorney's Office Indicts Universal Waste Hauler

Los Angeles – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced Robert John Roberts, of San Dimas, was indicted by a federal grand jury on March 1, 2006, for five felony counts including the illegal disposal of hazardous waste, obstruction of justice and false statements in relation to Roberts' universal waste operations. DTSC's Criminal Investigations Branch and the U.S. Department of Defense's Criminal Investigative Service jointly conducted the investigation.

Robert Roberts formerly owned two other hazardous waste companies, Mercury Recovery Services, Inc. and Roberts Enterprises, Inc. In 1996 the Los Angeles County District Attorney charged Roberts and his two companies with illegal disposal of hazardous waste. In 1999 the California Attorney General's Office won a civil judgment against Mercury Recovery Services, Inc. and Robert Roberts for violations of the California Health and Safety Code resulting in \$2,750,000 civil penalties.

DTSC regulates the generation, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste within the State of California. DTSC ensures compliance with the Hazardous Waste Control Laws through regulations, inspections, and criminal investigations.

To find additional information about DTSC, please visit DTSC's web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov. For complaints involving the illegal dumping, storage, or transportation of hazardous waste, please call 1-800-69-TOXIC.

###

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.